AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host, comprising:

(a) mixing dry microparticles with an injection vehicle to form a first suspension, wherein the microparticles comprise a polymeric binder and wherein the microparticles are suspended in the injection vehicle at a concentration of from about 175 mg/ml to about 400 mg/ml; and

(b) mixing the first suspension with a viscosity enhancing agent to form a second suspension, wherein the viscosity enhancing agent increases viscosity of a fluid phase of the second suspension to be in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C, wherein the viscosity of the fluid phase of the second suspension provides injectability of the composition into the host through a needle ranging in diameter from 18-22 gauge.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the injection vehicle prior to step (b) is less than about 60 cp at 20°C.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the fluid phase of the second suspension after step (b) is from about 200 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of microparticles in the first suspension is greater than about 300 mg/ml and less than about 400 mg/ml.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a viscosity of the viscosity enhancing agent is from about 1000 to about 2000 cp at 20°C.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the viscosity enhancing agent comprises sodium carboxymethyl cellulose.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a volume of the viscosity enhancing agent mixed with the first suspension is approximately 10-25% of the volume of the first suspension.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising before step (b):

(c) withdrawing the first suspension into a first syringe.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein step (b) comprises:

(i) providing a second syringe containing the viscosity enhancing agent;

(ii) coupling the first syringe to the second syringe so that fluid can pass between the first and second syringes; and

(iii) repeatedly passing the first suspension and the viscosity enhancing agent between the first and second syringes.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) A method for administering a composition to a host, comprising:

(a) mixing dry microparticles with an injection vehicle to form a first suspension, wherein the microparticles comprise a polymeric binder and wherein the microparticles are suspended in the injection vehicle at a concentration of from about 175 mg/ml to about 400 mg/ml;

(b) mixing the first suspension with a viscosity enhancing agent to form a second suspension, wherein the viscosity enhancing agent increases viscosity of a fluid phase of the second suspension to be in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C; and

(c) injecting the second suspension into the host through a needle ranging in diameter from 18-22 gauge.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) A method for administering a composition to a host, comprising:

(a) mixing dry microparticles with an injection vehicle to form a suspension, wherein the injection vehicle has a viscosity at 20°C of less than about 60 cp, wherein the microparticles comprise a polymeric binder and wherein the microparticles are suspended in the injection vehicle at a concentration of from about 175 mg/ml to about 400 mg/ml;

(b) changing the viscosity of a fluid phase of the suspension to be in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C;

(c) withdrawing the suspension into a syringe; and

(d) injecting the suspension from the syringe into the host through a needle ranging in diameter from 18-22 gauge.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein step (b) comprises:

changing the temperature of the fluid phase of the suspension.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein step (c) is performed prior to step (b), and step (b) comprises:

adding a viscosity enhancing agent to the suspension in the syringe to thereby increase the viscosity of the fluid phase of the suspension.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the viscosity enhancing agent comprises sodium carboxymethyl cellulose.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the microparticles comprise an active agent.

18. (Currently amended) A method of making a composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host, comprising:

(a) providing microparticles comprising a polymeric binder;

(b) providing an injection vehicle having a viscosity of at least 20 cp at 20°C; and

(c) suspending the microparticles in the injection vehicle to form a suspension, wherein the microparticles are suspended in the injection vehicle at a concentration of from about 175 mg/ml to about 400 mg/ml, wherein the viscosity of a fluid phase of the suspension is in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C, wherein the viscosity of the fluid phase of the suspension provides injectability of the composition into the host through a needle ranging in diameter from 18-22 gauge.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein step (c) is performed prior to step (b).

20. (Original) A composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host prepared by the method of claim 1.

21. (Original) A method for administering a composition to a host, comprising:

injecting the composition of claim 20 into the host through a needle ranging in diameter from 18-22 gauge.

22. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 20, wherein the microparticles further comprise an active agent.

23. (Original) The composition of claim 22, wherein the polymeric binder is poly(d,l-lactide-co-glycolide) having a molar ratio of lactide to glycolide in the range of from about 85:15 to about 50:50.

24. (Original) The composition of claim 22, wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of risperidone, 9-hydroxyrisperidone, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

25. (Original) A composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host prepared by the method of claim 18.

26. (Original) The composition of claim 25, wherein the microparticles further comprise an active agent.

27. (Original) The composition of claim 25, wherein the polymeric binder is poly(d,l-lactide-co-glycolide) having a molar ratio of lactide to glycolide in the range of from about 100:0 to about 50:50.

28. (Original) The composition of claim 26, wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of risperidone, 9-hydroxyrisperidone, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

29. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host, comprising:

(a) mixing dry microparticles with an injection vehicle to form a first suspension, wherein the microparticles comprise a polymeric binder and wherein the

microparticles are suspended in the injection vehicle at a concentration of from about 175 mg/ml to about 400 mg/ml; and

(b) mixing the first suspension with a viscosity enhancing agent to form a second suspension, wherein the viscosity enhancing agent increases viscosity of a fluid phase of the second suspension to be in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C, wherein the viscosity of the fluid phase of the second suspension provides injectability of the composition into the host through a needle of medically acceptable size.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein an internal diameter of the needle ranges from about 700 to about 400 microns.

31. (Previously presented) A composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host prepared by the method of claim 29.

32. (Previously presented) A method for administering a composition to a host, comprising:

injecting the composition of claim 31 into the host through a needle of medically acceptable size.

33. (Currently amended) A method of making a composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host, comprising:

suspending microparticles comprising a polymeric binder in an injection vehicle having a viscosity of at least 20 cp at 20°C to form a suspension, wherein the microparticles are suspended in the injection vehicle at a concentration of from about 175 mg/ml to about 400 mg/ml, wherein the viscosity of a fluid phase of the suspension is in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C, wherein the viscosity of the fluid phase of the suspension provides injectability of the composition into the host through a needle of medically acceptable size.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein an internal diameter of the needle ranges from about 700 to about 400 microns.